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**Memorandum**  
**FCC/IB**

**RECEIVED**

APR 21 1998

To: Whom It May Concern  
Fr: Chris Murphy (International Bureau)  
Date: April 22, 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Re: **Policies and Rules for the Direct Broadcast Satellite  
Service (Notice of Proposed Rulemaking) FCC 98-26, IB Dkt.  
No. 98-21 Released February 26, 1998.**

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Please find under cover of this Memorandum, copies of emails from the public regarding the above-referenced proceeding on DBS.

of copies rec'd  
C.B.F.

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APR 21 1998

**From:** "Raoul Le Hardy" <raoul@caribe.net>  
**To:** A7.A7(GTRISTAN)  
**Date:** 2/23/98 9:09pm  
**Subject:** DBS

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Hi! this is to state my opinion on the issue of the DBS acces outside the continental US. I live in PR and we have very limited acces to DBS here, right now the only DBS available here is Echostar through a 6' antenna, the system is more expensive for us around \$800 more for the same service due to the fact of the 6' antenna. I would likely appreciate your action on this matter because I believe that the DBS companies have the infrastructure to provide us with service but due to economics they do not service us. Thank you very much

Buena suerte en su nueva posicion y saludos desde Puerto Rico.

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Raoul Le Hardy, Real Estate Machinery & Equipment Appraiser  
PO Box 156  
Mercedita, PR 00715-0156

**From:** "Luis Torres" <cameri@coqui.net>  
**To:** A7.A7(GTRISTAN)  
**Date:** 2/25/98 11:03pm  
**Subject:** Fw: Puerto Rico

DBS

Dear Mrs. Trsitani;

I originally sent this to Mr. Serrano at the House of Representatives but was returned.

I beleive you can help us a lot.

Regards

Luis Torres  
Cameri Satellite Services  
(787)251-2610  
Fax (787)251-2715  
Don Pelayo Ave AA-5  
Urb. Covadonga  
Toa Baja, PR 00949  
cameri@coqui.net

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Luis Torres <cameri@coqui.net>  
**To:** jreyes@ccgate.hac.com <jreyes@ccgate.hac.com>  
**Date:** Monday, February 16, 1998 8:08 PM  
**Subject:** Puerto Rico

Saludos;

Mi nombre es Luis Torres, presidente de Cameri Satellite Services en Puerto Rico. Con la salida del mercado de AlphaStar y la pobre cobertura sin contar el alto costo por el tamaño del plato de Dish Network estamos huerfanos de un buen servicio de DSS. Si consideramos nuestro idioma, los 35,000 subcriptores habidos con AlphaStar y la poblacióm de Puerto Rico de cerca de 3 millones de habitantes parte de ellas servidas por el pobre servicio de cable tv en la isla creemos que un servicio con el nombre de Direct TV sería una tremenda alternativa y que facilmente con una buena campaña, la programación correcta, buen precio, ect pudiese ser un éxito.

Me gustaría saber planes, si alguno. Deseamos escuchar sobre ustedes recuerden esto es un territorio de EUA con un ingreso pre capita muy superior a paises latino-americanos huerfanos de programación Via satellite con ecepción de antenas parabolicas en Banda C

Saludos

Luis Torres  
Cameri Satellite Services  
Don Pelayo Ave AA-5  
Urb. Covadonga, Toa Baja, PR 00949  
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**From:** "Ramon C. Cancel" <rccancel@coqui.net>  
**To:** A7.A7(GTRISTAN)  
**Date:** 2/23/98 10:42pm  
**Subject:** DBS to Alaska Hawaii and non-continental territories

Mrs. Gloria:

I hear the FCC is interested in accelerating the acces of DBS to the regions mentioned above. Thanks for your interest and I hope you change our very sad picture, for a change.

Former Alphastar owner,

Ramon C. Cancel  
Electronics Engineer

**From:** "Luis F. Jimenez" <LFJIMENE@coqui.net>  
**To:** A7.A7(GTRISTAN)  
**Date:** 2/23/98 11:23pm  
**Subject:** DTH SERVICE IN PR

SOLO QUIERO DEJAR ENTENDIDO QUE EN EL AREA DE PUERTO RICO DONDE VIVO , EXISTEN 2568 PERSONAS SINACCESOA CABLE TV, MUY DESEOSOS DE QUE SE NOS OFREZCA SERVICIOS DE SATELITE DIGITAL AL IGUAL QUE EN LOS ESTADOS CONTINENTALES.

LUIS F. JIMENEZ  
HC-01 BOX 11043  
ARECIBO, PR. 00612

**From:** Jon <jsobstad@hotmail.com>  
**To:** A7.A7(GTRISTAN)  
**Date:** 2/23/98 7:49pm  
**Subject:** (IB DOCKET 98-21)

Aloha,

I read with great interest and satisfaction the above docket item concerning access to direct to home satellite service for Hawaii, Alaska and US territories and possessions. I had contacted the former FCC commissioners with little response after AlphaStar ceased operations and left subscribers and dealers with expensive equipment and unfulfilled programming contracts. Perhaps the new commission will take the plight of thousands of US citizens more seriously and give the financial viability of potential providers more scrutiny.

FCC rulings on television broadcasting no longer affect just a small localized market. Satellite broadcasting involves millions of subscribers, spending hundreds of millions of dollars for access. We all realize that there is huge profit potential for companies who are granted these licenses. These licensees should therefore be held to a higher standard than a local broadcast station permit. This higher standard should include providing access to all US states and possessions, not just those with the highest profit potential, and a demonstrable ability to maintain delivery of signal for more than 14 months(AlphaStar's approximate lifetime).

As an aside, there is reference made in the above document to "a proposal by the State of Hawaii" concerning equal access. I have attempted to contact the state of Hawaii and have had little success getting any response, usually having to explain what AlphaStar and DBS are. Could you please forward to me any information on this proposal and the state(or federal) agency who proposed it?

Respectfully,  
Jon Sobstad  
PO Box# 58  
Kaunakakai, HI 96748  
808 553-3600  
808 553-3553 FX  
jsobstad@hotmail.com  
angel@aloha.net

**From:** <tranam@worldnet.att.net>  
**To:** A7.A7(GTRISTAN)  
**Date:** 3/2/98 6:22am  
**Subject:** Re: DBS ACCESS TO HAWAII ALASKA & US TERRITORIES RPT IN 98-7

>

> Dear Mrs. Tristani

>

> I read the International report 98-7 and we here in Puerto Rico doesn't  
> have DBS services. The last Digital Broadcast Television was Alphastar  
> which went bankruptcy. Everybody here in the Island have to bite the  
> bullet with cable TV of greater San Juan which is too expensive. \$37.00  
> basic programming 50 channel approximately. There is no other competition  
> for them.

> The other option is the C Band dish which prices fluctuate \$1500-2000  
> dollars not everyone is able to afford that amount. Since technology is  
> moving digital we in the Island are getting left behind everytime I  
> contact the DBS provider such as Direct TV or Echostar (Dishnetwork)  
> they said that we do not meet the requirement under the Satellite Home  
> Viewer Act from the FCC regulations. This regulations are a stumbling  
> block for them to reach the local market. I am sure that local cable  
> company are happy and doing the most to avoid the DBS competition.

>

> You should see innumerable people in the Island that switch to  
> Alphastar (44,000 subscriber in less than 7 months(Source:San Juan Star  
> & El Nuevo Dia). Also at the [www.DBSDISH.com](http://www.DBSDISH.com) Latin America msg board  
> are eager fellow citizens sharing information to find possible solution  
> to the situation of DBS reestablishment in Puerto Rico. So as a US/PR  
> Citizen Ex-Military (Marine Corps) I am pleading to you to voice our  
> thoughts and suggest positive changes in the Satellite Viewer Act to  
> open market to Puerto Rico.

>

> Respectfully Submitted,

> Mr. Hernandez

> Rio Piedras Puerto Rico

**From:** Gary D Epple <eppl@hcnews.com>  
**To:** J3.J3(CMURPHY)  
**Date:** 3/20/98 10:37am  
**Subject:** Availability Of Competitive Programming/DBS

Dear Mr. Murphy:

As discussed with you by telephone, I have been dismayed in learning that the satellite receiving equipment which we purchased one year ago from Dish Network, is not

compatible with and therefore cannot be used to receive signals from competing DBS

programming providers such as DirecTV.

When purchasing this equipment I unfortunately assumed that it could be used to receive

the DBS signals of others if and when we chose to subscribe to their services. At the very least, Dish Network and other DBS companies should be required to explicitly state to potential purchasers of their equipment and services, that this equipment can only be used to receive their signals.

In the meantime I believe it would be proper for the FCC working in the interest of the American public to require that the current and any future DBS companies adopt a compatible standard in their delivery equipment so that true competition might exist. I would also like to see an add on device made available for consumers such as ourselves which would allow us to use our equipment to receive another services signals by subscription.

I really don't buy the argument apparently given by DirecTV about their incryption system and its integrity. I think the truth is, they know that when a consumer purchases their equipment, that consumer has made a major investment and they are not likely to turn around one or two years later and purchase \$400.00-\$500.00 worth of additional equipment to subscribe to another companies programming. There also is the fact that the consumer would now own equipment which they would have no use for, and they would also have to dismantle and remove the old equipment and install the new equipment, or pay someone to do this.

All in all it boils down to one thing, Pops... Our customers are our customers as long as they want to watch television, and only a minuscule number would go through the expense and trouble to convert to another system. It would be interesting to know the numbers who have undertaken the conversion!

Another issue I would hope the FCC could address is the marketing inducements used by Dish Network to gain customers.

When considering which DBS system to purchase we were told by Dish Network that they would be offering local network affiliate programming in the near future. This was a large factor in our decision to purchase Dish Network equipment and subscribe to their programming. What we weren't told until after the local network affiliate programming became available was that we would have to purchase an additional dish and aim it in some other direction toward the East in order to receive the local affiliates. I have purchased all of the receiving equipment I intend to, but if I did want to get these networks off of the satellite it would be impossible because the only clear line of site I have available is to the Dish Network satellite we now are aimed at. Why weren't we advised of these minor details before we purchased our equipment from Dish Network???

The FCC is responsible in some measure for the way the DBS industry is conducting business, it is up to our regulators to regulate. I realize that the FCC has not wanted to interfere with introduction of new



technologies, but is it correct to stand idly by while these programmers carve up the customer base, and the consumer is left with only undesirable alternatives. It is time for the FCC to stand firm for the rights of consumers. We deserve to have unrestricted access to competing programming. I am not owned by the Dish Network Company. FCC can do the right thing for American consumers and I implore you to act judiciously in our behalf.

Thanks,  
Gary Epple